AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0045] beginning on page 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0045] Each pair of PCR primers is designed to introduce an *Nde*I site at the 5′ end and a *Spe*I site at the 3′ end of the gene amplified. PCR products are cloned into pCR-Blunt II-TOPO vector and the resulting plasmids are used to transform *E. coli* DH5α. The plasmids are digested with the enzymes *Nde*I and *Spe*I and fragments corresponding to each gene are cloned into a modified pET-24b (the modification consists of replacing the region between the *Xba*I and *Eco*RI sites in the multiple cloning cassette with the sequence 5′-TCTAGAAGGAGATATACATATGTGAACTAGTGAATTC -3′) (SEQ ID NO:1) previously digested with the same enzymes.